[27th March 1954

Appointment of Block Development Officers under National Extension Service.

* 448 *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state how many have been appointed as Block Development Officers under the National Extension Service from the Revenue Department and how many from other departments?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Seven from the Revenue Department and 21 from other departments."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, when these officers are selected from departments other than the Revenue Department what is the criterion for selection of the officers and is it a fact that the political affinity of the candidates is taken into consideration when they are selected for appointment? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I may at once tell the hon. Member that there can be no signs of political affinity as regards officers in the departments are concerned. Regarding the number of officers selected from other departments, I may inform the hon. Member that eleven were selected from the former Rural Welfare Department who were serving already in the villages as Rural Welfare Officers, three from the Agricultural Department who were all District Agricultural Officers and four from the Co-operative Department who were working as Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies."

Sri M. S. MOGRAL :—" Why are these officers called Block Development Officers? Is it because they actually block the development of these areas? " (Laughter.)

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, whatever may be the meaning the hon. Member gives to those English words, that is not so with reference to the work carried on by these Development Officers."

Sri S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" இந்த தேசிய விஸ்தரிப்பு திட்டம் சரியாக அமுல் நடத்த அந்த திட்டத்தின் கீழ் வேலை செய்யும் அதிகாரிக்கு தேசிய மனப்பான்மை இருக்கவேண்டும். ஆனால் ' இந்த அதிகாரிகளை ரெவின்யூ டிபார்ட்மெண்டிலிருந்து எடுத்துக்கொள்வதனால், அவர்கள் நன்றாகவேலை செய்வதில்லை ' என்பது மந்திரியாருக்குத் தெரியுமா? அதை நிவர்த்திப்பதற்கு என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க உத்தேசித்திருக்கிறார்கள்? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that even in the Revenue Department there are officers who have the right spirit to serve in the villages."